**Characteristics of a PBL Classroom**

* Collaborative (teachers, students, community and beyond) (Volunteer and Service Learning)
* Student-centered and teacher facilitated
* Connections to Structured Learning Experience
* Focuses on authentic real-world problem solving.
* Action oriented that produce implementable and positive outcomes.
* Linked to 21st century workforce and college and career readiness/employability skills
* Delivered through scenarios or situations that need resolution promoting hands-on, minds-on methods
* Is relevant, meaningful and purposeful to the student’s life (interesting and engaging)
* Crosses content boundaries
* Teaches systems thinking (beyond the technical) social, economic, etc. (integrated with other classes and situations in the local community)
* Learning is taking place in a community environment, not in isolation
* Not restricted or limited to the four walls of the classroom. Utilizes the world as the classroom and a context for learning.
* Includes peer teaching, coaching and reflection
* Has connections to corporate experts
* Has strong connections to parents and community resources
* Includes ongoing performance assessment for students (formative)
* Flexible enough to be run before and after school
* Follows a coherent set of standards and curriculum (Next Gen)
* Has ongoing professional development for teachers
* Have learning extensions and connections to non-formal learning such as, museums and resources from NASA, NOAA, etc.
* Is career-oriented
* Has elements of play with a purpose
* Has an evaluation component in order to continually modify the program and mirror technology and global workforce needs
* Integrates web 4.0 technology concepts – connected, mobile, collaborative – that establishes a community of learners that can stay connected anytime and anywhere